

Vice Admiral George Sterner's innovation and vision positioned Naval Sea Systems Command for the 21st century and beyond. He is an individual of uncommon character, and his superb leadership and service will be sincerely missed. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to recognize him today and thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he brings to a close his distinguished career.

IN HONOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
FREE ENTERPRISE WEEK

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the citizens of Pennsylvania to pay special tribute to the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education which this year is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is a seven-day economic education program providing Pennsylvania high school students and teachers at all levels, a practical, in-depth course on the American system of private enterprise and the operations of a free market. Over 1,100 students and teachers will join together with more than 200 Pennsylvania businessmen and businesswomen in order to experience and explore the challenge of healthy competition through a business management simulation, to hear top leaders in Pennsylvania business and government speak on the issues facing American business and industry, and, to participate in a series of specially formulated projects designed to acquaint them with the inner workings of a modern-day business.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is celebrating its more than 12,000 graduates representing more than 900 high schools in every county of this Commonwealth who have returned to their schools and communities with a vastly improved understanding of the world of business.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is now recognized as the largest, most successful economic education program of its kind in the world. Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week has now attained both national and international acclamation by its receipt of the 1987 National Award for Excellence in Economic Education from the Freedom's Foundation in Valley Forge, by being instrumental in starting similar programs in twenty-seven other states as well as in the country of New Zealand, by hosting students from the countries of Puerto Rico, Mexico and Russia and by serving as hosts in 1994 to a contingent of business people from Australia, seeking to pattern a program after Pennsylvania's.

I applaud Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week which continues to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality economic education to the youth and educators of Pennsylvania, thereby insuring a brighter future for the Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. S. SUE
SHEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable S. Sue Shear, a Representative from the 83rd Legislative District. She is currently serving her 13th term in the Missouri House of Representatives. Her district takes in all or part of six communities: Clayton, Ladue, Olivette, Creve Coeur, Overland and University City.

Representative Shear has spent the last 26 years fighting for the rights of women, bettering conditions for Missouri's children, older adults, the disabled, health care in general and working to improve the conditions in Missouri's prisons. She sponsored numerous measures reflecting her commitment to the environment, working people, and consumers. She was the original author of the award winning "Parents as Teachers" program, first established in Missouri and now a national model. One of the battles not won was for the Equal Rights Amendment of which she was the original sponsor and for which she became the symbol for women across the state. Susie has also become an icon; treated with respect and affection by fellow legislators, especially women colleagues who have dubbed her "the mother of us all." The Missouri house honored her at the close of its current session with a renewed commitment to women's equality in her honor.

Susie was born March 17, 1918. Now the senior woman in the House of Representatives, Susie recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She married the late Harry D. Shear and they had three children: M. Katherine, a psychiatrist; Kenneth R., a lawyer; and Kerry R., an art historian. Ken wrote a letter to her on her 75th birthday in which he said: "Going to Jeff City with you last month brought home to me just what an accomplishment you have made, without a college degree, without a law degree, to have forged yourself a role as one of the leaders of state government. The way I see it, you created a situation in which you had the role of being a leading spokeswoman for feminist and liberal causes, before you quite knew how to fill the role. And then you grew into it. A neat trick."

Perhaps Susie's greatest legacy is her clear commitment to stand firm in her beliefs. For this and many of her attributes, Women in Public Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis will aptly bear her name. She has inspired, nurtured, and taught many women the skills they need to make their way in the world.

I am very fortunate to have served with her for 18 years in the Missouri General Assembly. I unabashedly called her "Mom." She was the mother I needed as I made my way as a young woman through the trials and tribulations of public service. In her Darwinian function, she gave birth to me in the political arena, set standards she expected me to meet, and shoved me out of the nest to become a member of Congress.

Susie is retiring this year after serving 26 years in the Missouri House. Her children and grandchildren are to be commended for their generosity in sharing her with the broader com-

munity, our state and nation. The world is a better place for her life of public service. Thank you, Mom, for teaching me the joy of giving back to society.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION
MONTH

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to take advantage of the fact that this is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month to speak about this important and far reaching problem in my community and many others across this nation, and to thank my colleagues Ms. CLAYTON and Mrs. MORELLA for their leadership in calling this evening's special order.

According to statistical data provided by the Virgin Islands Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics and other sources, the incidence of sexual activity among the adolescent and young adult populations in the Territory is very high. Within a five year period from 1992-1996 there were 11,810 live births recorded in the Virgin Islands. Of those births, 25.7% were born to white non-Hispanic mothers ages 13-24 years of age; 44.3% to black, non-Hispanic mothers and 50.3% to Hispanic mothers in the same age group.

Additionally, information provided by the national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy showed that birth rates for Virgin Islands teenagers ages 15-19 in 1995, though down from 1991 figures of 77.9%, were still at a very high 63%. But there is another distressing message underlying these statistics which cannot be overlooked; that is that our teens are having unprotected sex.

As these numbers indicate the incidence of teenage pregnancy is declining, albeit slowly, and my community, as well as all other communities need to view this issue not only as a problem of young people having children before they are mature enough to accept and carry out the responsibilities of parenting, but as but a symptom of larger, much deeper issues of the poor and unhealthy socio-economic environment which creates and fosters this and other problems in minority youth.

The best teen pregnancy prevention program would be to pass much of the Democratic agenda. Let's rebuild and construct new schools, hire and train more teachers, and improve our public educational system.

Let's create more opportunities for a college education, jobs, business and home ownership. Let's fully fund our health care proposals.

I have developed and worked in programs and clinics which serve pregnant teens.

Too often we miss the opportunity to prevent second pregnancies, but a comprehensive program, which provides all of the supportive services, and which includes counseling, esteem building, and coordination with the schools the young parents attend is very effective.

We also have to effectively and firmly deal with the older men who prey on our young women and are most often the fathers of the children they bear.

Most of all parents cannot abandon their children once they have made this first mistake. That has proven to be the most important factor in how well we prevent the next